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TRANSLATIONS ON ORIENTOLOGY AND AFRICANOLOGY IN THE USSR

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## FOREWORD

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TRANSLATIONS ON ORIENTOLOGY AND AFRICANOLOGY IN THE USSR

Following are the translations of four articles on meetings and other activities of Soviet Orientologists and Africanologists published in Sovremennyy Vostok, No 7, Moscow, July 1960. Additional bibliographic information accompanies each item.

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## ASSEMBLY OF ORIENTOLOGISTS OF THE WORLD

- USSR -

Following is the translation of an article by B. G. Gafurov, Chairman of the Organizational Committee, 25th International Congress of Orientologists, in Sovremennyy Vostok (Contemporary East), Moscow, No 7, July 60, pages 2-3.

The 25th International Congress of Orientologists will be held in Moscow, capital of the Soviet Union, in August 1960.

Periodic meetings of orientologists conducted for the mutual interchange of information on the achievements and works of everyone, had become a fine tradition long ago. After the first congress, held in 1873 in Paris, the orientologists met every three-four years. This tradition was broken only during the First and Second World Wars. However, the 21st Congress convened in 1948 in Paris, while the 22nd Congress was held in Istanbul in 1951. Soviet scientists participated, for the first time, in the 23rd Congress (Cambridge, 1954). Our orientologists again ably represented their country's science at the 24th Congress in Munich in 1957. It was then decided to hold the next world meeting of orientologists in Moscow. Undoubtedly, this decision indicated the recognition of the increased prestige of the Soviet science.

The Soviet orientologists are confident that the 25th Congress will contribute further to the development of the world orientology. For this purpose it is necessary, first of all, to maintain a spirit of scientific cooperation and good will, and to be certain that the nationality and religion of the scientists, and the differences of their ideological and political views did not interfere with the creative discussions and free exchange of opinions.

The experience of past meetings proves that examination of the problems of the East in their entirety -- namely, the study of the mutually inter-connected problems of history, economy, philosophy, and philology -- is highly advisable and effective. Such a method of research is in keeping with the modern level of development of the world studies of orientalism.

During the past thousands of years the gifted and industrious peoples of the East created everlasting spiritual and material values. Vast literature is devoted to the subjects of history, philosophy, aesthetics, culture, and architecture of these peoples, since the Orient has always held an irrepressible attraction for travelers, explorers, poets, and artists. Concise works on the history of the Eastern science were created by the great scientists Syma Ch'ien, Ibn Khal'dun

Abu Ali Ibn Sina, and Makhmud Kashgarskiy [last three names transliterated from Russian], as long ago as the period of the Middle Ages. The Arabs acquainted Europe with the immortal creations of the Chinese, Indian (Hindu), and Iranian mathematicians, astronomers, medical men, chemists, geographers, and historians.

It should be noted that the attitude of the West toward the East was determined by two different basic tendencies. The first tendency was a humanitarian one, which was characterized by the unselfish studies of its cultural values. The second tendency first revealed itself during the period of the crusades and, further -- and even more vividly -- during the epoch of the initial accumulation of capital and the European expansion into Asia. This tendency was stimulated by the selfish interest in the material riches of the Orient. During the 18th-20th centuries those two tendencies clashed continuously in the world of orientology.

The upsurge of the nationalist liberation movement in the Twentieth Century contributed to the growth of the local national intelligentsia and increased the number of scientists. The perfect knowledge of native languages and traditions helped them in the studies of the history and culture of their countries and in elucidation of the peoples' struggle against colonialism. The relations between the western and eastern scientists were formed in accordance with the various approaches made to the methods of studying the East: Ideologists, among the orientologists, of colonialism ignored the achievements of the peoples of Asia and Africa and denied their ability for independent development, while progressive orientologists advocated close cooperation with the scientists of the East.

Development of Soviet oriental science commenced after the victory of the great October Socialist Revolution, when it adopted the best traditions of the foremost studies of orientology and enriched it with the Marxist methodology.

Soviet oriental sciences attained considerable successes during the Soviet regime.

In the post-war period the extent of research in the areas of history, economy, philosophy, languages, and culture of the peoples of the East, has expanded substantially. New Oriental study centres have been established. At the present time, in addition to the Academy of Sciences USSR and the Moscow and Leningrad Universities, the following schools make their contribution to the science: Institutes of Oriental Studies of the Academies of Sciences of the Uzbek and Azerbaydzhan SSR, departments of oriental studies of the republic academies of the Georgian, Tadzhik, and Armenian SSRs, and the universities of all the republics of the Soviet East. Among the works created by the scientists of those republics and which merit particular attention, are: Translations from the Mahabharata made at Ashkhabad; translated Canon of Medicine by Ibn Sina [Avicenna] and Babur-name [translit. from Russian] prepared at Tashkent; and research of Arabic dialects of Middle Asia, by academician G. V. Tsareteli of the Academy of Sciences Georgian SSR.

In recent years the Soviet Union's orientologists have published a number of significant works. Suffice it to mention, the research works

on Khorezm by S. P. Tolstoy, and on the history of Urartu by B. B. Piotrovskiy and G. A. Melikishvili; the works of V. V. Struve on the history of the ancient East; I. A. Orbeli -- on Iranian studies; N. V. Pigulevskaya -- on Byzantine history; A. N. Kononov -- on Turkology; the book Obshchestvennyy i Gosudarstvennyy Stroi Drevnego Dvurech'ya (Social and State System of Ancient Dvurech'ye) by I. M. D'yakonov, and publications of the archives documents pertaining to the history of the relations of Russia with India, China, and Mongolia. Among recent publications are Ocherki istorii Kitaya v noveysheye vremya (Essays on the Modern History of China), Noveyshaya istoriya Indii (Modern History of India), the collection of articles Natsional'no-osvoboditel'noye dvizheniye v Indii i deyatel'nost' B. G. Tilaka (National Liberation Movement in India and Activities of B. G. Tilak), books and articles on the recent and modern history of Japan, Mongolia, and Korea, and series of essays Yazyki narodov Vostoka (Languages of the Peoples of the Orient) edited by G. P. Serdyuchenko. New editions of the works of A. P. Barannikov, Ye. E. Bertel's, V. A. Gordlevskiy, and I. Yu. Krachkovskiy have been published, as well as the works on the history of literature by N. I. Konrad [Conrad ?], I. S. Braginskiy and other scientists.

Numerous books have been published exposing the colonial policy of the imperialists, the knocking together by them of the military blocs in the East, and creation there of various military bases.

Extensive work has been carried out on compilation of dictionaries of several eastern languages and on publishing of such remarkable documents of literature as the Ramayana, Dkhammapada [translit. from Russian], Laws of Manu, Literaturnyye pamyatniki narodov Vostoka (Literary Monuments of the Peoples of the Orient).

The Soviet orientologists are making preparations to promulgate the results of their work and to make an original creative report at the forthcoming Congress.

The mighty upsurge of the national liberation movement in the East, disintegration of the colonial system and appearance, on its wreckage, of the scores of independent states in Asia and Africa, as well as other fundamental changes which occurred in the world during the postwar period, aroused the orientologists' great interest in the modern day. This resulted in the appearance of a considerable number of important works and monographs dealing with the various problems of the East of today. It is gratifying to note that many of these works were written by the scientists and publicists of the eastern nations.

Soviet scientists consider it their obligation and duty to acquaint the general public of our country with more significant works of our foreign colleagues. For instance, the following works have been translated into Russian: The History of India, by H. K. Singh and A. Ch. Banerdzhi; The History of Southeast Asia, by D. J. E. Hall; Agrarian System of India by D. Turner; five volumes of History of the War in the Pacific, edited by Usami Seydziro [names of above five authors transliterated from Russian], and others. Our magazines readily offer space on their pages to foreign scientists. The works of Mao Tse-tung, Ho Chi-minh, Tetsu Katayama, and

of other eminent leaders of the revolutionary movement in the East, enjoy great popularity in the Soviet Union. The works of the distinguished statesmen and public figures of the countries of Asia and Africa -- Koo Mo-jo, M. Gandhi, J. Nehru, S. Radhakrishnan [translit. from Russ.], Sukarno, and others -- were published and have large circulation.

The Soviet scientists are confident that the congress will help the orientologists in the exchange of the results of the research work conducted by each one of them, and will be instrumental in promoting wider contact among the orientologists of various countries. We wish to point out that our scientists have no intention of imposing their viewpoints upon any of the foreign scientists or upon the congress as a whole. However, they do not hide the fact that, in all their research, and in their very approach to the problems of oriental studies, they are guided by the Marxist-Leninist methodology and, moreover, that they consider this methodology to be the only proper one.

Many more representatives of science of the countries of Asia and Africa are expected to attend the Moscow congress than have ever been present at any congresses in the past, and this will have a great influence on its work.

The forthcoming meeting of the orientologists should contribute to the strengthening of the ties between the scientists of the East and West, to further development of the world studies of orientology and to its increased role in the struggle for progress and peaceful cooperation of the peoples.



## FOR STRENGTHENING THE SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION OF THE AFRICANOLOGISTS

Following is the translation of an article by Prof I. I. Potekhin, Director of the African Institute, Academy of Sciences, USSR, in Sovremennyy Vostok (Contemporary East), Moscow, No 7, July 60, pages 7-8.

Of all the activities of the congress of orientologists I am primarily interested in the problems connected with Africanology. This does not mean that I am indifferent to all other aspects of orientology, but every scientist is naturally more concerned with the subjects of his own specialty.

The year 1960 has been named the African Year. It will be entered in the history of the African Peoples as the year of great victories won in their struggle against colonialism and imperialism. At the time of the meetings of the 23rd Congress of Orientalists in Cambridge (1954), there were only five independent countries in the continent of Africa; at the time of the meetings of the 24th Congress in Munich (1957), there were nine; now there are 12, and by the end of 1960 there will be no less than 17 independent countries. Nigeria is attaining her independence this year and will become the largest nation in Africa. The peoples of a number of other colonial nations are on the threshold of independence. The colonial system is being destroyed, and the peoples of Africa are making their way towards creative self-determination and independent building of a new life. The events of such tremendous historic significance should inevitably influence and stimulate the development of the Africanology.

My first participation in an international meeting of orientologists was during the session of the congress in Cambridge in 1954. I was amazed then to see the composition of the African Section. During the meetings of the section the reports and addresses were read by the scientists from Great Britain, France, Italy, USSR, and other countries of Europe, while not a single report was read by the Africans. Moreover, there were no Africans in that section at all. Hardly any explanation is necessary; the reasons are clear to every one. I was not present at the session of the congress in Munich, but the situation there was similar. Hence, my first advice to the congress: it is necessary that the African scientists participate in the work of the African Section, together with the European and American scientists.

The Africanologists are confronted with the huge and difficult problems. Having risen for the struggle for their national liberation, the peoples of Africa display a great and quite natural interest in their past and in their historical traditions. "We must know our past. As



our future is connected with the present, so has the present resulted from the past. There is nothing in our past that should make us feel ashamed. Our past is magnificent" -- says Doctor Kwame Nkrumah.

However, the past was almost never studied. During the recent years a number of interesting historical research works appeared. These were written by the Africans (for instance, Dike, Sheik Anton Diop, as well as by the Europeans (D. A. Ol'derogge, Zh. Sure-Kanal' [names translit. from Russ.], and B. Davidson). However, this is only the beginning of the important work. Hence, my second advice to the congress: the activities of its African Section should serve as a stimulus for extensive development of research and historical studies.

Those of the peoples of Africa who have already won independence and created sovereign nations, are now solving the complicated problems of renovation of their entire life. It is the sacred duty of the scientists to assist them, through scientific research, in the areas of economy and culture. Hence, my third advice to the scientists-Africanists: closer to life, closer to the present; tie-in your research with the practical problems of reconstruction of the entire tenor of life of the peoples of Africa!

In conclusion, my final advice to the congress is: to facilitate the strengthening of scientific collaboration of the Africanologists of all countries and all continents, in the name of the greater historical goal -- to liquidate, in the shortest possible time, the after-effects of the colonial oppression of the peoples of Africa.

I was requested to express my thoughts with regard to the current congress of orientologists. I believe that my opinion does not disagree with those of my colleagues, the Africanologists in my country, as well as in all other countries.

## LET ORIENTOLOGY SERVE THE CAUSE OF PEACE

Following is the translation of an article by Prof Yu. N. Rerikh in Sovremennyy Vostok (Contemporary East), Moscow, No 7, July 60, pages 8-9./

A considerable number of years passed since the time the International Congress of Orientalists convened in St. Petersburg. In the history of orientology the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries marked the astounding growth of oriental science. At the beginning of the 20th century Russian orientology added many glorious pages to the science about the countries of Asia.

Our science is greeting the forthcoming congress in Moscow in the circumstances of the new great epoch. During recent years Soviet Oriental Science has made great strides. The Soviet Union maintains extensive relations with the countries of Asia. These relations are based on the principle of equality. The Congress in Moscow will be, in a way, an inspection review of the scientific achievements, not only in our country, but, abroad as well.

A lot is being said and written of the forthcoming congress. Everybody is making the necessary preparations. This puts us under obligation. Soviet Oriental Science must present its achievements and the wealth of its museum collections.

In many areas of Orientology we secured a leading position. For instance, in order for the foreign specialists to study Turkology or Altaistics, the knowledge of the Russian language became imperative to them.

Soviet archeologists took some pains in the research of the antiquities of the eastern regions of our multi-nation country, and accumulated the richest materials. We can be justly proud of our explorations of the Altai Mountains, Southern Siberia, Khorezm, Pyandzhikent, the Crimea, and the Caucasus.

The Institute of Orientology of the Academy of Sciences USSR became an important research center with two campuses, one in Moscow, and one in Leningrad. There is no doubt that large complex schools will be established in the future for the studies of the history, culture, and languages of the countries of Asia. Tremendous problems of the new epoch must reverberate in the new structure and scientific work of the research establishments.

Our foreign guests will be offered the possibility of examining the rich collections of manuscripts and antiquities in the Leningrad and Moscow museums. They will also see much in the capitals of the republics of the Union.

No doubt, the congress will serve as a forum for the exchange of opinions with the foreign scientists. It is possible that one of the positive results will be formulation of the concrete plans for the

mutual scientific collaboration on an international scale. Many problems of history are awaiting such a decision and it is to be hoped that the forthcoming congress will reveal these problems.

Having come to the new life, the peoples of Asia preserve with care their cultural heritage and draw from it an inspiration for their new achievements. Our task is to help them in every respect. It must be remembered that such a help strengthens the cause of peace and serves the science and peaceful cooperation among the scientists of all countries.

The above address dedicated to the congress of orientologists was written by the prominent scientist and Tibetologist, Yuriy Nikolayevich Rerikh a few days before his untimely death.

## LANGUAGES OF THE NON-SOVIET EAST AND AFRICA

- USSR -

Following is the translation of an article by P. Serdyuchenko in Sovremennyy Vostok (Contemporary East), Moscow, No 7, July 60, page 42/

The Institute of Orientology of the Academy of Sciences USSR has prepared for printing a series of articles on languages of the Non-Soviet East and Africa. The series embraces the dead, as well as the living, languages pertaining to various language systems. Some of the articles are devoted to the entire language groups ("Languages of India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Ceylon"; "Languages of Southeast Asia"; "Languages of Africa"; etc.), others deal with the descriptions of separate concrete languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, etc.).

The series is calculated to serve -- first of all -- wide circles of linguists and orientalists, students and professors of the institutes of oriental studies, language and philology faculties, and, also, all other specialists who are interested in the problems of the culture and languages of the peoples of the East.

Each article of the series includes, first of all, brief information pertaining to the population speaking the given languages, the territory of their diffusion, the dialects, the history of the study of these languages, and the most important literary monuments available in these languages. The basic part of the articles consists of the chapters dealing with the phonetics and writing, lexicon and word formation, and also with the most important features of morphology and syntax of the languages.

As a supplement, the following are included in the articles:

a) Specimens of texts in the writing of given languages, as well as in transcription; translation of the texts into Russian and comments as to grammar, etc., are also provided.

b) List of available literature in Russian, as well as in other languages.

c) Map showing the spread of the languages and their dialects.

The Scientific Council of the Institute of Orientology, Academy of Sciences USSR, has already approved and passed on to the Publishing House of Oriental Literature for publication 37 essays on the following languages: a) Turkic languages; Turkish, Uygur, and the languages of the Yenisey-Orkhan period; b) Mongolian languages: Modern Mongolian (Khalkha [translit. from Russ.], Mongolian languages and Chinese dialects; c) Iranian: Avestian (Avesta), modern Persian, Pushtu (Afghan), Kabuli-farsi

[translit. from Russ.]; Baluchistani, Kurdistani; Iranian languages (combined article); d) Semitic languages: Arabic (including modern dialects), Amharic; e) Hindustani-Iranian and Dravid languages of India: Sanskrit, Hindi, Punjabi, Assam, Telugu, Malay, Tamil; languages of India, Pakistan, Nepal and Ceylon (combined article); f) Chinese and Tibetan languages: Chinese, Chuang, Thai-Siamese, Tibetan; g) Languages of Southeast Asia (other than Chinese or Tibetan): Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian), Indonesian, Javanese; h) Far Eastern languages: Japanese, Korean; i) Languages of Africa: Hausa, Swahili, Zulu, and Luganda.

The essays on the languages of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Ceylon, and on the Amharic languages have already been published. Completion of the printing of the essays on the Turkish, Indonesian, Mongolian, Japanese, Korean, and Khmer languages -- and, also, on Mongolian languages of China -- is expected in the near future. All of the articles being printed at present, are expected to be published in 1960.